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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,834	01/08/2002	Yoshihiro Uto	04269.0315	9716

7590 07/27/2004  
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Washington, DC 20005-3315

EXAMINER

BAXTER, GWENDOLYN WRENN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3632

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/038,834

Applicant(s)

UTO ET AL. ST

Examiner

Gwendolyn Baxter

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3 and 11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

This is the third office action for application serial number 10/038,834, Electronic Equipment Mounting Angle Varying Apparatus, filed on May 5, 1997.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2, 3, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP9-326853. The present invention reads on JP'853 as follows: JP'853 teaches an electronic equipment mounting angle varying apparatus comprising a base member (24), a mounting member (1) and arm member (28). The base member is mounted at a place where electronic is installed. The mounting member on which the electronic equipment is mounted is supported by the base member so as to freely swing about a horizontal base support shaft axis (along 25). The arm member is supported by the base member so as to freely swing about a base member support shaft axis extending horizontally, which sets the mounting angle of the electronic equipment by being latched by the mounting member. The electronic equipment is mounted at a prescribed angle. The base member holds the electronic equipment at a prescribed mounting angle by latching the arm member. Additionally, the mounting member comprises arm latched portion constituted by a plurality of holes (9-11) formed along a direction perpendicular to the horizontal mounting support shaft axis. The arm member has an arm latching portion (30) comprising a positioning latching portion (the tip of 30) that fits into the arm latched portion (10) and

determines a position relative to the base member. An elastic latching portion that has a end portion at a leading end thereof and is flexibly deformed so that the convex portion is fitted inside the arm latched portion and engages therewith. The arm latching portion is latched by the engagement of the end portion in the arm latched portion. The base member comprises a latching guide surface portion (6-8) against which the arm member abuts in a manner such that angle subtended with inner surface of the arm member is acute. By pressing the electronic equipment downward, the arm latching portion of the arm member is guided to be fitted into and latched by the arm latched portion of the base member. The arm member is guided to a horizontal attitude. However, the apparatus fails to teach the arm member swing about the mounting member support shaft axis and the base having a plurality of holes formed along and the latching portion being convexed.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the arm member to swing about the mounting member support axis and the base to have a plurality of holes, since it has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70. Additionally, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to have made the latching portion convexed, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of a component. A change in shape is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966).

Regarding claim 11, the base member comprises a falling-out prevention portion (29) for preventing the arm member from coming out. The arm member further comprises an arm

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pulling-out prevention portion (the that receives portion 29) which engages the falling-out prevention portion of the base member.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 4 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5-10 are allowed.

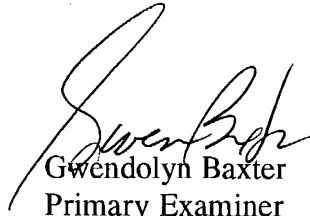
***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3 and 11 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gwendolyn Baxter whose telephone number is 703-308-0702. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Wednesday, 8:00am -5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leslie A Braun can be reached on 703-308-2156. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Gwendolyn Baxter  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3632

July 25, 2004